REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed June 10, 2005. Claims 1, 26, 37, 48, 52, 60, 68, and 83-88 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-88 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

In the Specification:

The Examiner rejected the Title of the Specification as not descriptive. Applicants traverse this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have submitted a replacement Title.

In the Claims:

Section 101 Rejections:

The Examiner rejected claims 1-88 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner rejected claims 1-88 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, stating that the claims 1-88 "merely recite a method/system for displaying task and task related information based on a user's select (access) and therefore does not produce a useful, concrete and/or tangible result." Applicants traverse this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution of the application, independent claims 1, 26, 37, 48, and 83 have been amended to more clearly recite that the present invention is implemented on a computer system, and is therefore "concrete and tangible."

In regard to claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that data ("task and task related information") is stored, displayed and selected in a computer system as recited in claim 1, and therefore qualifies as a "useful, concrete and/or tangible result." By its nature of being implemented in a computer system, the data is concrete and tangible. Furthermore, said displaying a first display, said selecting a first subtask item, and said

displaying one or more task detail items are clearly useful in the technological arts for programmatically assisting end users in determining specific solutions to specific problems in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, and therefore provides a "useful, concrete and/or tangible result."

Thus, Applicants respectfully request removal of the § 101 rejection for claim 1 for at least the reasons cited above. Similar remarks as those above regarding claim 1 apply to independent claims 26, 37, 48, 52, 60, 68 and 83. Thus, Applicants respectfully request removal of the § 101 rejection for claims 26, 37, 48, 52, 60, 68 and 83 for at least the reasons cited above. Since the rejections have been shown to be unsupported for the independent claims, Applicants respectfully request removal of the § 101 rejection for the various dependent claims for at least the reasons cited above.

The Examiner further rejected claims 83-88 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter "where there is no indication that the proposed signal is tangibly embodied on a signal carrying medium and capable of execution by a computer." Applicants traverse this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution of the application, claims 83-88 have been amended to recite a tangible, computer accessible medium. Applicants thus respectfully request removal of the § 101 rejection of claims 83-88.

Section 103(a) Rejections:

The Examiner rejected claims 1-88 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marpe et al. (U.S. Patent 6,671,693) (hereinafter "Marpe"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Regarding claim 1, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Marpe fails to teach a "system and method that is [applicable] to a plurality of industries/fields of endeavors (industry solution packs, industries...)" in Column 51, lines 54-68; Column 52, lines 1-54. Specifically Marpe fails to teach or suggest a system and method that is generally

applicable in various "fields of endeavor" for "assisting users in performing tasks related to their field of endeavor", fails to teach or suggest a system and method that is generally applicable to assist users in performing tasks specific to various fields of endeavor including the oil and gas industry, and certainly fails to teach or suggest a system and method that is applicable to the assisting users in the performance of tasks specific to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

Instead, Marpe teaches a system and method that is specifically applied to a particular task or area within various industries - the area of Mergers and Acquisitions. This is clearly stated in Marpe, Column 9, lines 9-27:

Merger and Acquisition Engine System Overview

The Merger and Acquisition (M&A) Engine provides knowledge management and delivery capabilities to facilitate the learning and execution of merger-related work. In one embodiment, this is accomplished by storing the M&A Engine on a centralized server which may be accessed over a network, i.e. the Internet, via a web site using a hardware implementation set forth hereinabove and shown in FIG. 1.

During operation, the M&A Engine facilitates user work, manages and delivers reusable knowledge, improves the ability to manage change resulting from mergers and acquisitions, and expedites the learning process for new merger resources. The M&A Engine streamlines communication between merger participants, and assists in the consolidation of projects. The M&A Engine can also be used as a marketing tool. In addition, the M&A Engine promotes standardization of processes that are applicable to individual areas such as status reporting, business case development, and budget and benefits monitoring.

In regard to the "industry solution packs" taught by Marpe, Marpe does not teach or suggest that these industry solution packs refer to "solution packs" that are generally applicable in various, diverse areas of various industries to assist users in performing tasks in any of the various, diverse areas of the industries. Instead, Marpe clearly teaches that these industry solution packs relate specifically to merger and acquisition tasks for various industries. This is clearly indicated in Marpe, Column 17, lines 22-27:

FIG. 7 is a "home"--page of one embodiment of the web-based tool of the present invention. As shown, various categories of project management tools 703, a planning guide 705, and industry solution packs 707 <u>relating to a merger and acquisition</u> may be retrieved from a single interface 700.

In Column 51, line 54 - Column 52, line 46, Marpe again clearly teaches that the "industry solution packs" relate specifically to merger and acquisition (M&A) tasks:

INDUSTRY SOLUTION PACKS

The Industry Solution Packs explain key activities, key risks and proven practices that can be applied to specific industries. There are four Industry Solution Packs within Financial Services:

. . .

There are several Banking specific processes that are impacted during an <u>M&A</u> <u>event</u>:

. . .

There are several Health Services specific processes that are impacted during an <u>M&A</u> event:

. . .

There are several Insurance specific processes that are impacted during an <u>M&A</u> event:

Clearly from the above, when Marpe is teaching "industry solution packs", Marpe is teaching industry solution packs related to a specific task - Merger and Acquisition.

Thus, it is clear that Marpe is teaching a system and method applicable specifically to merger and acquisition tasks. Thus, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiners' rejection under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marpe, as Marpe does not teach or suggest a system and method that is "applied to a plurality of industries/fields of endeavors...each endeavor having a plurality of associated tasks/activities (i.e., not limited to a particular industry)." While it is true that Marpe teaches a system and method that may be applicable to a specific <u>task</u> (merger and acquisition) that may be encountered in various industries, the system and method disclosed by Marpe is clearly not taught, nor suggested, as a system and method that is generally applicable to assisting users in finding solutions to various and diverse problems and tasks within a plurality of industries/fields of endeavor.

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Thus, for at least the reasons presented above, the rejection of claim 1 is not supported by the cited prior art and removal thereof is respectfully requested. Similar remarks as those above regarding claim 1 also apply to the 103(a) rejections of claims 26, 37, 48, 52, 60, 68 and 83.

In regard to the rejection under 103(a), Applicants also assert that numerous ones of the dependent claims recite further distinctions over the cited art. However, since the rejections have been shown to be unsupported for the independent claims, a further discussion of the dependent claims is not necessary at this time.
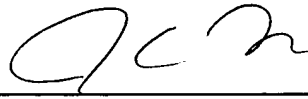
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5460-00401/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

☒ Notice of Change of Address

Respectfully submitted,

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